



Heritage Center & Swift Creek Hall

Pocahontas State Park

Chesterfield, Virginia



Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

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"We are a Virginia State Park that includes several buildings where meetings are held on a regular basis by private and government agencies. The outdoor nature of the site lends itself to a green experience for the user."

Green Statement: "As a natural resource agency we have been going green for several years providing recycle bins in the meeting rooms and a full recycle dumpster in the campground. Additionally we have upgraded lighting to CFL bulbs in public buildings that were not currently in place, reduced vegetative cutting in riparian buffers, perform preventative maintenance on and planting of native /drought tolerant plants to reduce watering needs."

CORE ACTIVITIES for Conference Centers

☑ This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Conference Centers. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to **Pocahontas State Park** can expect the following practices:

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** All conference centers must provide for recycling at their events. Aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling are a must. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, packing supplies, batteries
- Clearly marked recycling cans in rooms, recycle dumpster provided in campground parking lot
- Track overall waste bills
- dining room (or meetings/events)*
- Use reusable dishware and glassware & minimize use of disposables
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
- Use water pitches and filtered water to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- restrooms*
- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Use high-efficiency hand-dryers

- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper
office/purchasing
- Use a last-in/first-out inventory & effective labeling systems
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Make 2-sided copies / printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
building and grounds
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Purchase low-VOC carpets and fabrics
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex paints that are 0 low-VOC
- Re-use paint thinners
- Properly recycle and/or disposal of thinners and solvents (required by EPA-RCRA)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

☒ **Styrofoam elimination and reduction of disposables.** Virginia Green Conference centers are encouraged to eliminate or minimize the use of Styrofoam-based products and to use alternative disposables that are made of natural products and/or are bio-degradable. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable containers that are:
 - Made from recycled content paper
 - Compostable

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first)
- Use rain barrels, and/ or drip-line irrigation
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities
- Use:
 - compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
 - LED Exit Signs
 - high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Use natural lighting
- Use occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Purchase EnergyStar-rated computers, copiers, and appliances
- Have thermal-rated windows and insulation
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

☒ **Green Events Package.** Virginia Green conference centers must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided.

For more information on the *Virginia Green* program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

